States. Reports are however being received regarding adulteration of MS and HSD with kerosene. In order to check the adulteration of kerosene, steps such as furfural doping of kerosene, blue dyeing of kerosene, sample testing by mobile laboratories and surprise inspections by field officers of oil companies and State authorities, and delivered supply of kerosne have been taken. The Central Govrnment has also requested the State Governments to rationalise the system, of retail distribution to prevent diversion and black-marketing of kerosene and other irregularities.

Cases of fraddulent vouchers for LPG Connections in Aurangabad

1255. DR. BAPU KALDATE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that certain arrests were made in the third week of June, 1994 in Aurangabad in connection with fraudulent vouchers with forged signatures of Members of Parliament from Gujarat for LPG connections;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (b). Two persons were reportedly arrested in Aurangabad in connection with fraudulent vouchers in June, 1994 for having presented the fake vouchers with the alleged signaturs of two Members of Parliament, for issue of LPG domestic connection.

(c) Police have registered an F.I.R.

Exploration of Oil and Natural Gas in Gujarat

1256. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have selected some new areas in Gujarat to explore oil and natural gas during the current financil year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total amount earmarked for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the year 1994-95, two new structures namely Gambhira and Degam have been identified for drilling in Cambay basin of Gujarat, of which drilling has already started on Gambhira structure. In addition to this, a new structure Lodhika in Saurashtra is also under drilling.

Besides this, seismic surveys are continuing in different areas of Gujarat to identify new prospects for drilling.

(c) The total amount earmarked in the budget estimates for 1994-95 for exploration in Gujarat is as follows:—

(Rs. in crores)

Survey	48.26
Exploratory	209.39
Drilling	257.65

Request from Gujarat to Raise Royalty on crude oil

1257. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat have demanded to raise royalty on crude oil;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) (a) to (c). Consequent upon requests from Government of Gujarat for revision of the rate of royalty on crude oil beyond 31-3-1993, an 'on account'

payment at the enhanced rate of Rs. 528/- per metric tonne towards royalty on crude oil for the year 1993-94 has been made subject to adjustment on notification of the final rate of royalty and the finalisation of crude price in due course.

Petroleum and Natural Gas Plants in the country

1258. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Petroleum and Natural Gas Plants functioning in the country, State-wise, particularly in the State of Gujarat at present;

(b) the details of the production of these plants during the last three years, plant-wise and year-wise;

(c) whether Government have any proposal of its own or whether any proposal has been received by it from the State Government of Gujarat for setting up some new plants in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) (i) 13 refineries, 82 bottling, plants, lube blending plants, LPG recovery plants and a number of exploration and production projects are functioning in various States of the country.

(ii) One refinery, 6 bottling plants and one LPG recovery plant are functioning in Gujarat. The details of production of these plants during the last three years, was as follows:—

(in TMTPA)

	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94 provisional
Gujarat Refinery	9380	9778	9434
LPG recovery Plant	—	5.32	39.88

(iii) The bottling capacity of LPG bottling plants located in Gujarat is 262 TMTPA.

(c) and (d) The plants proposed to be set up by public sector oil companies in Gujarat are as under:—

(i) Setting up of LPG bottling plants at Ahmedabad and Bhavnagar.

(ii) Expansion of Gujarat refinery from 9.5 MMTPA to 12.5 MMTPA capacity.

(iii) A joint venture Gas Processing Complex in Gandhar for 8 MMSCMD of gas through-put.

(iv) Setting up of LPG import facilities at Kandla.

(v) Letters of intent have been issued to the following parties for setting up of refineries in Gujarat:—

1. Reliance Industries 9.00 MMTPA
2. International Petroleum SA (BVI) Switzerland 5.00 MMTPA (EOU)
3. ESSAR Investment 9.00 MMTPA
4. M/s.Meplac Udyog 0.50 MMTPA

Progress in providing Tapti Gas to Pipavav in Gujarat

1259. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far for providing Tapti gas to Pipavav in Gujarat;

(b) whether Government have received the proposal from the State Government in this regard;

(c) if so what action has been taken by Government so far; and

(d) by when it is likely to be finalised?